

Dear Committee members:

I am writing with respect to the Student Achievement meeting being held at the Catholic Education Centre on April 6, 2017 [at 7:00 pm](#). This pertains to the attendance boundaries for St. Gregory, Nativity of Our Lord, Mother Cabrini and Our Lady of Sorrows.

I am in support of Director Gauthier's recommendation that the boundaries remain status quo and that a new elementary school be investigated. This would be a feasible solution to address the over enrolment at St. Gregory School. Sending students across the very dangerous Highway 427 bridge is not a safe solution! It would create extremely unsafe conditions for students walking across the bridge on a daily basis to get to and from school. In protecting our children, Director Gauthier has made a recommendation that addresses the safety concerns as discussed above.

I strongly urge the Committee, and the Board, to accept Director Gauthier's recommendations. I also support that an audit be performed in order to determine how many students live outside of the St. Gregory School catchment area. This will in the interim aim to address some of the enrolment issues affecting the school.

It is of great concern that the Board does not enforce its OWN policy to "demit students who are not enrolled in the French program to a school in their area." Yes, I understand none of you want to remove any students out of the catchment area but this is a real problem now. For years, the school has been lax on admitting students out of area and not verifying addresses. Now, you see the repercussions, an overcrowded school. So, your solution is to remove in area students so they may cross a 400 series highway to get to school. This is totally unacceptable. School busses are not a solution. Let's not forget what happened with the lack of school busses and chaos back in September 2016 that lasted over a month. School busses are NOT a solution. Is it going to take an accident involving a student crossing the 427 to finally make everyone understand how completely dangerous that scenario is?

Students will adapt. It won't be the end of the world for an out of area student to be demitted and attend a school in their own area. It would be the end of the world for a student involved in a tragic accident crossing Highway 427.

Many, many schools across the GTA strictly enforce the policy of demitting students not in the area. I work with a number of schools downtown Toronto that demit students once they move from the area. It's a practice that works in keeping the school population down in order to prevent overcrowding.

Finally, I'd really, really like to know why the Board has a policy in place where out of area students not attending the French program are demitted but they are not following their own rules. Can someone please respond to me with an answer?

Thank you,
Lora Hilb